

MOLD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Mold Urban District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you my Report on the health of the Urban District of Mold for the year ended 31st December, 1954.

From Table I it will be seen that the number of live-births was 108 compared with 121 in 1953, giving a slight fall in the birth-rate.

Table II shows that there were 3 still-births, compared with 1 in 1953. In Table III, it is shown that there was a rise in the total number of deaths from 66 in 1953 to 68 in 1954, giving a crude death-rate of 10.30 per 1,000. Table IV gives an analysis of the causes of death. Of the 68 deaths, diseases of the heart and circulatory system accounted for 37, and cancer for 14. In a population which has an ever increasing number of old people, those figures must be expected to show an increase, as these complaints are found mainly in the elderly. It is pleasing to record once more that there were no deaths associated with pregnancy and childbirth, and there were no deaths from infectious diseases.

There were 2 deaths of infants under one year, compared with 6 in 1953.

The water supply to the town caused less anxiety during the summer drought. Supplies were adequate, and it was not necessary to cut supplies at night, as in previous years. Samples have shown that the water is of satisfactory quality.

Concerning housing conditions, the list of applicants is still very large, but a revision has shown that the demand for Council Houses is not as urgent as it was. During the year, many very deserving cases were re-housed. There is no doubt that the unavoidably high rents of new houses are causing young people to withdraw their applications. When

a pre-war house becomes vacant there is a frantic rush by applicants to whom, naturally, the low rent appeals.

Difficulty has arisen in acquiring land for building purposes. With an area of only 1,160 acres, most of it built upon, and much of the remainder rendered sterile by mining and other industries, Mold is rapidly approaching the point when it will be necessary to build houses outside the boundaries of the district.

During the year there were 39 cases of notifiable disease (excluding Tuberculosis), the majority being Whooping Cough. Concerning Tuberculosis, there were 8 cases compared with 13 in 1953, and there were no deaths from this complaint.

A glance through this Report will show that health conditions in the District were satisfactory throughout the year. It will show also that there was a vast amount of day to day routine work done. With the ever-increasing amount of new legislation which affects local authorities, this work will greatly increase, particularly relating to housing.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the Council as a whole, and your officers, for the assistance which has been so readily given to me throughout the year.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

D. J. FRASER,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS INCLUDING CHIEF INDUSTRIES.

There has been no change in the area under this heading during the year under review.

Area in acres—1160 statutory acres.

Population (Registrar General's Estimate) :—

Mid-year 1953—6560.

Mid-year 1954—6600.

Number of inhabited houses—1960.

Rateable value—£41,589.

Product of a penny rate—£164/4/1.

Vital Statistics—These are given in tabular form. For purposes of comparison, figures for last year are given, and, where appropriate, the rates for England and Wales as a whole.

TABLE I. **Births.**

Live Births.

		Males.	Females.	Total.
Legitimate	...	59	44	103
Illegitimate	...	—	5	5
		—	—	—
Total	...	59	49	108
		—	—	—

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 Population :—

1953—18.44.

1954—16.36.

England and Wales : Live Birth Rate per 1,000 Population :—

1953—15.5.

1954 (Provisional)—15.2.

These figures show a slight fall in the local birth rate, but this is still above the rate for England and Wales. There were 108 live births, compared with 121 in 1953.

TABLE II. **Still Births.**

		Males.	Females.	Total.
Legitimate	...	1	2	3
Illegitimate	...	—	—	—
		—	—	—
Total	...	1	2	3
		—	—	—

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total live and still births :—

1953—8.19.

1954—27.02.

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Population :—

1953—0.15.

1954—0.45.

England and Wales : Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Live and Still Births :—

1953—22.5.

1954—24.0.

There were 3 still births in 1954, compared with one in 1953.

TABLE III. Death (General) Rate :—

All ages (all causes)—Males 37, Females 31, Total 68, compared with 66 in 1953.

Death Rate per 1,000 Population :—

1953—10.06.

1954—10.30.

England and Wales : Death Rate per 1,000 Population :—

1953—11.4.

1954 (Provisional)—11.3.

There has been a rise in the crude death rate for the Mold Urban District. The rate for England and Wales shows a slight fall. The rate for Mold is lower than that for England and Wales as a whole.

TABLE IV. Deaths (General) Analysis.

Causes.			M. F. Total.			Rate per 1000 Population.	
Cancer of stomach	...	...	2	1	3	...	0.45
Cancer of lung, bronchus	...	...	—	—	—	...	—
Cancer of breast	...	...	—	1	1	...	0.15
Cancer of other organs	...	...	4	6	10	...	1.51
Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	7	9	16	...	2.42
Coronary disease, angina	...	...	7	2	9	...	1.36
Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	—	1	1	...	0.15
Other heart disease	...	...	5	6	11	...	1.66
Other respiratory diseases	...	...	1	1	2	...	0.30
Bronchitis	...	...	1	—	1	...	0.15

Causes.				Rate per 1000	
	M.	F.	Total.	Population.	
Hyperplasia prostate	2	—	2	...	0.30
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	4	2	6	...	0.90
Motor vehicle accidents	—	—	—	...	—
All other accidents	3	1	4	...	0.60
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	1	2	...	0.30
Total ...	37	31	68		

From this table it is seen that the leading causes of death were again circulatory diseases with 37 deaths, and cancer in one form or another with 14 deaths. It is worth noting that there were no deaths from infectious diseases, which include Tuberculosis, and no deaths from Pneumonia.

TABLE V. Deaths (Childbirth)—Nil.

It is pleasing to record that once again there were no deaths attributable to pregnancy or childbirth.

TABLE VI. Death Rate (Infantile)—that is, Infants under one year old :—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Legitimate ...	1	1	2
Illegitimate ...	—	—	—
Total ...	1	1	2

Infantile Death Rate of Legitimate babies per 1,000

Legitimate Births :—

1953—51.28.

1954—19.41.

Infantile Death Rate of Illegitimate babies per 1,000

Illegitimate Births :—

1953—Nil.

1954—Nil.

Infantile Death Rate per 1,000 Live Births (Legitimate and Illegitimate) :—

1953—49.58.

1954—18.51.

England and Wales : Infantile Death Rate per 1,000 Live Births :—

1953—26.8.

1954—25.5.

There were 2 deaths of infants under 1 year old, compared with 6 in 1953. One was less than a month old.

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Officers—The Officers serving the Urban District during the year were :—

Medical Officer of Health—D. J. Fraser, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor—H. Geoffrey Barnes, S.I.B., M.R.S.I., M. Inst. B.E., M. Inst. R.A., A.M. Inst. H.E.

Laboratory Facilities—Provided by the Public Health Laboratories at Conway and Birkenhead, and the Public Analyst, Chester.

Ambulance Services—Provided by the Flintshire County Council. Ambulances are stationed within the Urban Area on a 24-hour service. Sitting-case car transport is available under arrangements made by the County Welfare Officer. The local office is in High Street.

Midwifery and Home Nursing Services are provided by the County Council. Two District Nurse/Midwives reside in the area.

Home Help—This service provided by the County Council. Persons requiring home help should get in touch with the Home Help Organiser at the County Health Department or with the Medical Officer of Health.

Tuberculosis.

Clinics—"Oaklands," Chester Road, Queensferry; Wednesdays at 9-30 a.m. The Clinic, Grosvenor Road, Wrexham; Mondays at 9-30 a.m.

Ante-Natal Clinics.

The Clinic, Mold. First and third Mondays of the month at 9-30 a.m.

School Clinic.

The Clinic, King Street, Mold. Wednesdays at 9-30 a.m.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

The Clinic, King Street, Mold. The first Friday of the month at 1-30 p.m.

Dental Clinic.

Schoolchildren and expectant mothers are treated at the Clinic, King Street, Mold, by appointment.

Orthopaedic Clinic.

Shotton—New Clinic, Central School. 1st and 3rd Wednesdays each month at 10-30 a.m.

Infant Welfare.

The Clinic, King Street, Mold. Wednesdays at 1-30 p.m.

Ophthalmic Clinic.

The Clinic, King Street, Mold. The second and fourth Mondays of the month at 1-30 p.m. (by appointment).

Health Visiting.

Health Visitor/School Nurses are provided by the County Council. These Nurses visit children in their homes up to school age, and attend at the Infant Welfare Clinic sessions.

Prevention of Illness, Care and After Care.

This service is maintained by close liaison between the Medical Officer, Health Visitor/School Nurses, Tuberculosis

Health Visitors, Home Helps Organiser, the Welfare Department, the County Health Department and voluntary bodies, including associations caring for the blind and deaf, and those otherwise handicapped.

Vaccination is carried out by general medical practitioners, but it may be done by the Medical Officer on request.

National Assistance Act, 1948 (Section 47). (Removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention).

No cases were dealt with under this heading during the year.

Hospitals.

Hospital accommodation is provided by the Clwyd and Deeside Hospital Management Committee. Mold Cottage Hospital remains in use and provides services for local residents. Patients are admitted to other hospitals in the district, mainly in Wrexham and Chester.

SECTION C.

Water Supply.

Mold water supply is provided by the Mold Undertaking of the Wales Gas Board. The reservoir, situated on the eastern slopes of Moel Famau, and built towards the end of last century, has insufficient storage space for the needs of the town. With the continuing growth of the town, and the building of more and more houses, the problem of drought in the summer months will become more acute. During drought in the summer months, water is obtained from the Birkenhead Corporation water supply. It may be possible in the future to obtain more water from this source, when Birkenhead Corporation will have completed its scheme for extraction of water from the River Dee. During the year there was a good rainfall, and it was not necessary to restrict water supplies at night during the summer months.

Proportion of dwelling houses and also population supplied with water directly to houses—90 %.

Quality of Water Supply—The water is chlorinated as it leaves the reservoir.

Bacteriological examination of water—Water samples are examined at the Public Health Laboratory, Birkenhead.

Independent samples are regularly taken by the Wales Gas Board.

Of 36 water samples taken, 30 were highly satisfactory, 6 were less satisfactory. Repeat samples from the same sources were satisfactory. Occasional complaints are made by the public concerning an unpleasant taste in the water. This is caused by slight over-chlorination, and can be removed by letting the water stand for a time, or by boiling it. This over-chlorination is perfectly harmless to health, and it makes certain that the water is fit to be used. One complete chemical analysis of the water was made, the report being satisfactory.

“Chemical Analysis. In parts per million of water.

Total solid matter in solution	...	...	60.0
Nitrogen in nitrates	...	...	0.38
Nitrites	...	...	Nil
Chlorine in chlorides	...	...	17.0
Oxygen absorbed from potassium perman- ganate in 4 hours at 80F.	...	...	Nil
Free and saline ammonia	...	...	Nil
Albuminoid ammonia	...	...	Nil
Microscopical deposit	...	...	Nil
Temporary hardness	...	...	15.0
Permanent hardness	...	...	30.0
pH value	...	...	6.6

The above chemical analysis is satisfactory. The water is a very soft one.”

Sewage Disposal.

During the year, the Sewage Disposal Works were kept in as good order as is possible, considering the fact that they were greatly overloaded at all times.

No official complaints were made regarding river pollution. 12 samples of fluid effluent or stream water were sent for analysis. The results were satisfactory. A problem which will have to be faced is that resulting from the increased domestic use of detergent chemicals. These are used in most homes for washing purposes, and they pass in due course

into the sewers. These chemicals have a bad effect on the filter beds. The problem is a national one, and this increased use of chemicals in the home may necessitate a change in methods of sewage disposal.

During the year, arrangements were completed for the Sewage Works Extensions, which will cost £28,000, and much of the work was carried out.

Schools.

All schools are regularly visited.

House Refuse.

Refuse collection is carried out by the Authority's labour. Disposal of refuse is by controlled tipping.

The refuse tip continues to be a source of anxiety. Tipping should have ceased on this site many years ago, as a principle in controlled tipping is that the tip level should not be above that of the surrounding land. Tipping sites are difficult to find, as few landowners are willing to lease ground for this purpose. I would advise that immediate consideration be given to this matter, as neighbouring local authorities face the same difficulty. New sites should be acquired, although they may not be required for use immediately.

TABLE VII.

Number of visits made in connection with Public Health matters :—

Visits re complaint of defects	...	...	...	431
Re-visits to property under notice	...	...	...	209
Inspections under Building Byelaws	...	...	...	101
Shops and food stores	...	...	...	98
Slaughterhouse	...	...	...	183
Re refuse collection and disposal	...	...	...	16
Re infectious diseases and disinfection	...	...	...	32
Issue of Petrol Licences	...	...	...	9
Factories Act	...	...	...	92
Interviews with Owners or Agents	...	...	...	78
Dirty or verminous premises	...	...	...	2
Bakehouses	...	...	...	20
Sewage Works	...	...	...	103
Dairies	...	...	...	6
Water Sampling	...	...	...	62

TABLE VIII.

Notices Served :—

Informal under Public Health Acts	12
Formal under Housing Acts	46
Abatement under Public Health Acts	—
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	Total	...	58
			<hr/>

TABLE IX.

Work Done :—

Sanitary Conveniences repaired	26
Drain obstructions removed	200
Dangerous floors repaired	...	...	...	3
Roofs and gutters repaired	...	...	...	150
Plaster repaired	...	...	...	30
Windows repaired	...	...	...	18
Bakehouse walls cleansed	...	...	...	2
Cesspools emptied	...	...	...	2
Plumbing repairs completed	...	...	...	160
Dangerous structures made safe	...	...	...	1
Hedges lopped	...	...	...	12
Water supplies improved	...	...	...	2
Doors repaired	...	...	...	16
Yards repaired	...	...	...	2

SECTION D.**Housing.**

During the year 8 privately-built houses were erected, 29 Council houses were completed, and 11 privately-built houses were in course of erection. By the end of the year, the total number of Council houses was 600 out of 1,960 inhabited houses in the district. The applications for Council house tenancies amounted to 201. Of this number, over 60 per cent. were families in rooms. Considerable overcrowding exists, especially in the Council-owned houses. Little can be done to abate this until new houses become available. During the year many cases of gross overcrowding were relieved.

(1) Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year.

1. (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	301
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	640
2. (a) Number of dwelling houses included (in sub-head 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	...	...	...	...	73
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	110
3. Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	16
4. Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to in the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	58

(2) Remedy of Defects during the year without service of Formal Notice.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the L.A. or their officers	46
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(3) Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 ;					
1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	...	...	22
2. Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—					
(a) By Owners	...	...	...	...	22
(b) By L.A. in default of Owners	...	...	...	...	—
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :					
1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	...	...	7

2. Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice :—

(a) By Owners	...	...	...	...	7
(b) By L.A. in default of Owners	...	...	...	...	—
(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :					
1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	...	...	1
2. Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	...	...	—
(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :					
1. Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	...	...	—
2. Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	...	...	...	—

(4) **Housing Act, 1936—Part IV—Overcrowding :**

(a) 1. Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	...	...	...	...	286
2. Number of families dwelling therein	...	...	...	...	429
3. Number of persons dwelling therein	...	...	...	...	1287
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	...	...	...	21
(c) 1. Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	...	...	...	29
2. Number of persons concerned in such cases	...	...	...	...	102
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the L.A. have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	...	...	...	...	Nil
(e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report :—					

Some abatement could be effected by
exchange of houses in the Council's
Estates.

(f)	Total number of Certificates of Permitted Number issued up to end of year 1954	29
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SECTION E.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Regular inspections of food premises were made. All premises were satisfactory as to lighting, ventilation and drainage. In a few cases, lack of cleanliness was apparent. The owners were warned and conditions improved.

All premises where food is handled were inspected regularly.

Generally, those whose occupation involves handling of food are co-operative, and suggestions made in the interests of improved hygiene are well received.

Sampling of Food (by the County Sanitary Inspector).

During the year, 26 samples of food were taken. The following articles were sampled :—

Milk	...	...	...	...	8
Dairy products	...	...	...	...	4
Sausages	...	...	...	...	4
Patent medicines	...	...	...	...	2
Miscellaneous groceries	...	...	...	...	8

Of the above samples, two were not genuine or below standard. Italian pears were found to be contaminated with arsenic, as a result of tree-spraying with insecticide, and one sample of cooking fat was found to be inedible.

One sample of milk was found to be tuberculous. The herd was examined by the Divisional Veterinary Officer, and a cow found to have tuberculosis was slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order.

Ice Cream.

All of the ice cream sold in the district is manufactured in factories situated in other areas and it is pre-packed. The standard of cleanliness of ice cream is satisfactory. Twenty premises are registered for the sale of ice cream.

Milk.

The quality of milk from the point of view of composition is the responsibility of the County Council as the Food and Drugs Authority. Most of the milk sold in the district is supplied by two large firms outside the district, and this milk is heat treated or tuberculin tested. There are three producer-retailers in the district. They are supervised by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. Eight samples were taken, and all were genuine.

TABLE X.

Number of animals inspected at the Abattoir :—

Sheep	...	...	...	3860
Cattle	...	...	...	900
Calves	...	...	...	312
Pigs	...	...	...	190
Total				5262

TABLE XI.

Meat. Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle including Cows.			Sheep and Lambs.		Pigs.
Number killed	...	900	430	312	3860	190
All diseases except Tuberculosis :—						
Whole carases condemned	...	5	5	22	25	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	...	128	63	46	475	31
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	...	12.3	13.1	11.3	11.5	10.
Tuberculosis only :—						
Whole carcases condemned	...	2	5	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	...	176	101	—	—	—
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	...	19.2	23.4	—	—	—

TABLE XII.

Carcases, part Carcases and Organs Condemned.

Disease.	Beasts.	Calves.	Sheep.	Pigs.	Total.
Carcases	10	22	25	2	59
Forequarters	6	6	20	1	33
Hindquarters	11	—	12	1	24
Heads	16	2	23	11	52
Plucks	20	5	100	—	125
Lungs	86	—	—	5	91
Livers	100	5	203	10	318
Spleens	10	—	—	—	10
Intestines	8	—	12	—	20
Stomachs	3	2	4	—	9
Legs	4	—	24	—	28
Full Offals	6	3	22	1	32
Hearts	10	1	30	—	41
Tails	4	—	—	—	4

TABLE XIII.

Food unfit for human consumption voluntarily
surrendered :

Evaporated Milk	...	...	...	30 tins
Baked Beans	...	...	...	12 „
Tinned Meat	...	...	...	68 „
Peas	...	...	...	10 „
Potatoes	...	...	...	5 cwts.
Cheese	...	...	...	44 lbs.
Salmon	...	...	...	7 tins
Tomatoes	...	...	...	77 „
Bacon	...	...	...	31 lbs.
Gammon	...	...	...	35 „
Fruit	...	...	...	121 tins
Meat Loaf	...	...	...	14 „
Ham	...	...	...	300 lbs.
Sausage	...	...	...	14 „
Cream	...	...	...	4 tins
Tinned Fruit	...	...	...	68 „
Prunes	...	...	...	220 lbs.
Cereals	...	...	...	6 pkts.

Plums	...	...	...	24 lbs.
Fruit Juice	...	...	...	9 tins
Fish Cakes	...	...	...	10 lbs..
Veal	...	...	...	10 tins
Pilchards	...	...	...	20 „
Ox Tongue	...	...	...	9 „
Brisket Beef	...	...	...	3 „
Luncheon Meat	...	...	...	16 „

Condemned Food.

When food has to be condemned, it is inspected either by the Medical Officer or by the Sanitary Inspector. A certificate is issued to the owner of the food so that he may obtain credit for the goods from the wholesale supplier, and the food is destroyed at the Council tip, usually by burying it deeply in the ground. With food such as potatoes and greenstuffs, pig keepers may be given permission to remove such food for feeding to animals.

Meat which has been condemned is sprayed with green dye and sold to fertiliser manufacturers. Certificates are obtained showing the weight of condemned meat, so that none goes astray on the journey.

Meat.

During the year rationing of meat came to an end, and the local slaughter-house, which had been leased by the Ministry of Food, was handed back to its owner. This slaughter-house, together with two others which had been in use in 1939, were licensed by the Council. All meat slaughtered in these premises was inspected by the Sanitary Inspector.

Factories.

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises. (1)	M/c. Line No. (2)	No. on Register. (3)	Inspections, (4)	Number of Written Notices. (5)	Occupiers Prosecuted. (6)	M/c. Line No. (7)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	...	1 ... 7	... 16	1 written 7 verbal	... Nil	... 1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	...	2 ... 29	... 38	9 verbal	... Nil	... 2
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out workers premises)	...	3 ... 3	... 6	Nil	... Nil	... 3
Total	...	39	60	17	Nil	

2. Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars. (1)	M/c. Line No. (2)	Found. (3)	Number of cases in which defects were found.				M/c. Line No. (8)
			Referred		in which prosecutions were instituted. (7)	M/c. Line No. (8)	
			To H.M. In- spectr. (5)	By H.M. In- spectr. (6)			
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	...	4	3	—	—	4	
Overcrowding (S.2)	...	5	—	—	—	5	
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	...	6	—	—	—	6	
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	...	7	3	—	—	7	
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	...	8	1	—	—	8	
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) :—							
(a) Insufficient	...	9	2	—	—	9	
(b) Unsuitable or defective	...	10	2	—	—	10	
(c) Not separate for sexes	...	11	1	—	—	11	
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	...	12	—	2	—	12	
Total	...	12	12	Nil	2	Nil	

Part VIII of the Act.
OUTWORK.

(Sections 110 and 111).

Section 110.				Section 111.						
Nature of Work.	M/c. Line No.	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
Wearing apparel (making, etc.) ...	13			—	—	—	—	—	—	13
Cleansing and Washing ...	14			3	—	—	—	—	—	14
Total ...				3	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	

SECTION F.
Prevalence and control of Notifiable Diseases
(Excluding Tuberculosis).

TABLE XIV.

Diseases.		Cases notified.		Deaths notified.	
Scarlet Fever	6	...	—
Whooping Cough	29	...	—
Measles	1	...	—
Ac. Pneumonia	2	...	—
Meningitis	1	...	—
Total		...	39		—

TABLE XV.

Analysis of Notifiable Diseases. The figures shown in column 1 of the previous table are analysed in age groups below.

Number of cases notified as having occurred among persons of the ages immediately below specified.

Disease.		Under 1.	1-2.	3-4.	5-9.	10-14.	15-24.	25 & over.	Age Unknown.
Scarlet Fever	...	—	1	1	4	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	...	6	2	12	9	—	—	—	—
Measles	...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	...	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
Meningitis	...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—

There were no cases of Infantile Paralysis (Poliomyelitis), nor of Diphtheria. There was no outbreak of food poisoning during the year.

During the summer and autumn there was an outbreak of Whooping Cough, mainly in children under school age. It was of a mild type.

There were no deaths from infectious or other notifiable diseases.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New cases notified in 1954.

Age Groups.		Respiratory.	Non-Respiratory.	Total.
Under 1 year	...	—	...	—
1-2 years	...	—	...	—
3-4 „	...	1	...	1
5-9 „	...	—	...	—
10-14 „	...	—	1	1
15-24 „	...	—	...	—
25 and over	...	6	...	6
All ages	...	7	1	8

It will be seen that the notifications of new pulmonary cases numbered 7, and the non-respiratory cases 1, total 8, compared with 13 in 1953. There were no deaths from tuberculosis. Of the new cases, 3 were males, 5 females. Three of the cases were transfers from other districts, and one was a recently arrived resident. All these patients visited the Chest Clinics, and were supervised at home by the Tuberculosis Health Visitors.

Mass X-Ray.

In May, the Mass X-Ray Unit of the Welsh Regional Hospital Board visited the town and was stationed in the Assembly Hall. A record number of persons presented themselves for examination—1,899, compared with 1,596 in 1952. Analysis of the results show that 808 males and 1,091 females were examined. No active cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were found, but five persons required observation for a period. 32 cases of healed tuberculosis were noted; 31 persons had other chest complaints, and 21 had diseases of the heart and

circulatory system. There were 19 cases, all males, of pneumoconiosis—a complaint associated with occupations such as coalmining and quarry-working. 40 persons were found to have abnormality of the bones of the chest. In all, 72 males and 71 females had abnormalities—7.79 per cent. of the number examined.

I consider that the result of the visit of the Unit was satisfactory. It takes some years to persuade the public that this service is a most valuable one, but it is necessary to advertise the visit as a circus would be advertised, with posters, loud-speaker vans, leaflets, and an approach to leaders of public and voluntary services throughout the district.

Many of the male population who work outside the district are regularly x-rayed when the Unit visits the factories. Those are not included in the above totals.

The Unit will visit the district again in 1955 and 1956.

